



TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FENRYN.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for

T H E Y E A R 1937.

of

T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

of

H E A L T H.



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1937.

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

During the past year there has been no change of any note in the Social Circumstances of the Area and unemployment has remained at about the same level as in 1936, the fluctuations being solely due to variations in work at the Falmouth Docks.

Area in acres	721.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population. . .	3,813.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1937).	1,121.
Rateable Value.	£16,650.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£60.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total	
<u>Live Births.</u>	23.	22.	50	Birth-rate per 1,000 of population. 13.6
	Legitimate.			
	Illegitimate.	1.	1.	2.
<u>Still Births.</u>	1.	2.	3.	
<u>Deaths.</u>	23.	29.	52.	

But this figure has to be corrected by multiplying by the Comparative Factor for the Area - in this case 0.89, which gives a corrected death-rate of 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. nil.
2. Other causes nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :- 2.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	38.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	7.
. Measles (all ages).	nil.
. Whooping Cough (all ages).	nil.
. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	nil.

It is a curious fact that the numbers of births and deaths were exactly equal. The birth-rate is slightly lower than that for England and Wales, which is 14.9, and the death-rate is slightly lower, that for England and Wales being 12.4.

The Infant mortality-rate, 38.4 compares well with that for the whole Country - 58.

It is again satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from puerperal causes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health. J.N.L.Blamey.,M.B. B.Ch. D.P.H.

(Part time who is also District Medical Officer under the Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator.)

Sanitary Inspector. J.H.Harris. A.R.S.I. (Half time) who also holds a certificate for Food Inspection.

3.

During the past year the only changes in the health services of the Area were :-

1. The beginning of the extension to the Falmouth Hospital, part of which will be ready for use shortly. This will give about 10 extra beds available for the Area.
2. Concrete arrangements were concluded, following a conference between the Falmouth Borough Authority and other local authorities interested, for Isolation Hospital accommodation to be provided by the Falmouth Authority on the site of their present Isolation Hospital for this and other neighbouring areas at charges to be agreed between them. Pending the extension and equipping of the present buildings a temporary agreement was come to that Falmouth would take in any cases we wished admitted if they have accommodation for them.

I should like to repeat here, what I have referred to before, the most urgent necessity of the provision of a maternity hospital or a maternity wing to the present Falmouth Hospital. This is a matter of urgency and I suggest that this Council take the initiative and get into touch with Falmouth Borough Council with a view to formulating a scheme.

Laboratory Facilities.

As I mentioned in my last report there is now a fully equipped laboratory at Truro Infirmary with a whole-time Pathologist at its head and I have made increasing use of the excellent facilities provided, there being obvious advantages, especially as regards convenience and the saving of time.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.Water.

The supply has remained very satisfactory as regards quality, but as the result of the very dry summer and autumn a shortage began to be felt and precautionary measures had to be taken to cut down consumption.

I understand that the Falmouth Borough Council are taking steps to increase the supply available in view of the increase in the number of houses in the districts supplied.

I append some of the analyses taken during the year and they are invariably excellent.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
91, Queen Victoria Street, London. E.C.4.

John F. Beale, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. etc.
Ernest Suckling, M.E., B.S., D.P.H. etc.

Ref. K. 4766.

12th: April 1937.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of Water
received 7.4.37. from Falmouth Corporation.

Source Low Level Supply.

Taken by G. Cox. Witness D. Anthony 5.4.37 3.30 p.m.

Number of colonies per cubic centimetre or
millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20° C
in 3 days. 24.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or
millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37° C
in 1 day 8.
in 2 days 10.

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in
Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at
37° C. Absent in 100 cc.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus
Coli. " " "

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of
the E. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporagenes) " " "

This is a clear and bright water of a high degree of
bacterial purity. It is a pure and wholesome water
suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) E. Suckling.

For Drs. Beale and Suckling.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
91, Queen Victoria Street, London. E.C.4.

John. F. Beale. M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., etc.

Ernest Suckling. M.B., B.S., D.P.H., etc.

Ref. K. 4765.

12th: April 1937.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of Water
received 7.4.37 from Falmouth Corporation.

Source High Level Supply.

Taken by G.Cox. Witness D.Anthony 5.4.37. 4 p.m.

Number of colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of
water growing upon Agar at 20° C in 3 days. 19.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimeter or millilitre
of water growing upon Agar at 37° C in 1 day 7.
in 2 days 7.

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in
Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at
37° C Absent in 100 cc.

Smallest quantity of water containing the
Bacillus Coli Absent in 100 cc.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of
the B.Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) Absent in 100 cc.

This is a clear and bright water of a high degree of
bacterial purity. It is a pure and wholesome water suitable
for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) E. Suckling.

For Drs. Beale and Suckling.

(Copy). THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
91, Queen Victoria Street, London E.C.4.

John F. Beale, M.A., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., etc
Ernest V. Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., etc.

Ref. L. 4400.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 13.1.38 from Falmouth Corporation labelled Tap at rear of Low Level Filters.

Taken by W.S.H. Brooks. Witness J. Woon. Date 12.1.38 3.10 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and Bright.	
Colour	Faint Yellow.	Odour Nil.
Reaction pH.	Faint Acid. 6.6.	Free Carbonic Acid 0.35.
Electric Conductivity at 20° C	150.	
Total Solids, 180° C	10.5	
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.4	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.28.	Nitrates Absent.
Hardness :	Permanent. 3.0	
	Temporary 0.0	
	Total. 3.0.	
Metals	absent	
Free Ammonia	0.000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen --
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0168.	Albuminoid Nitrogen --
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80° F	0.205	

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C	90.
1 day at 37° C.	10.
2 days at 37° C	32.

The Bacillus Coli. Present in -- Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii..

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes). Present in -- Absent in 100 c.c.

Report. This sample is clear and bright, contains no excess of saline or mineral water in solution, no metals, is of satisfactory organic quality and a high degree of bacterial purity. It is therefore considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for purposes of public supply.

(Signed) for Drs. Beale & Suckling.

Ernest V. Suckling.

(Copy).

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES..
91, Queen Victoria Street, London E.C.4.

John.F. Beale, F.A., D.F.H., M.R.C.S., etc.
Ernest V. Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.F.H., etc.

Ref. L. 4376.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 12.1.38 from Falmouth Corporation labelled Tap in High Level Meter House.

Taken by W.B.F. Brooks. Witness J. Woon. Date 11.1.38. 3.25 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and Bright.		
Colour	Slight Yellow.	Odour nil.	
Reaction pH.	Faint Acid 6.6.	Free Carbonic Acid	0.35
Electric Conductivity at 20° C	148.		
Total Solids, 180° C	10.5		
Chlorine in Chlorides.	2.5		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.28	Nitrates	Absent.
Hardness:	Permanent	3.0	
	Temporary	0.0	
	Total	<u>3.0</u>	
Metals	Iron	0.003	
Free Ammonia	0.0004	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	--
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0152	Albuminoid Nitrogen	--
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80° F.	0.175.		

Bacteriological Results.

No of Bacteria per c.c or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C	4.
1 day at 37° C	2.
2 days at 37° C	2.

The Bacillus Coli.. Present in -- Absent in 100 c.c

Bacillus Welchii.

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes). Present in -- Absent in 100 c.c

Report. This sample is clear and bright, soft in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, or of metals, is of satisfactory organic quality and a high degree of bacterial purity, showing no evidence of pollution.
It is therefore considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.

(Signed) For Drs. Beale & Suckling.

Ernest V. Suckling.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions to the main sewers have been made during the year, but the 44 new houses at Glasney Place have been connected up.

All new drains, whether in connection with new houses or existing buildings, are inspected and tested by smoke under pressure.

Closet Accomodation.

All houses in the Borough, excepting a few in the outskirts, have the water carriage system, but there are still several oroperties where flush tanks are not provided and hand flushing has to be used. Landlords are being pressed to remedy this.

Eradication of Bed-bugs etc.

Three houses have been fumigated by the Local Authority for bugs with "Zaldecyde" and Sulphur.

INSPECTION OF FOOD etc.

Milk Supply. All cowsheds and dairies have been inspected regularly and samples taken for bacteriological analysis.

The results have shown a steady improvement in conditions.

Fish Carts, passing through the town are frequently inspected.

Meat. All animals killed for human consumption are examined.

There are five slaughter-houses in the Borough which are all inspected regularly.

Number of Beasts inspected :-

Cows.	41.
Bullocks.	149.
Calves	320.
Lambs and Sheep	115.
Figs	4,419.

Condemned as unfit.

Cows	2.
Pigs	7.
Pigs plucks.	22.

Small quantities of unsound meat, fruit, vegetables and fish have been submitted by tradesmen for examination and when found unfit have been destroyed.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	CoWs	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	190.	41.	320	115.	4419.
Number inspected.	190.	41.	320	115.	4419.
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	--	1.	--	--	5.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	--	--	--	--	--
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	--	--	--	--	--
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	--	1.	--	--	2.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	--	--	--	--	22.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	--	--	--	--	--

Schools.

There have been no changes in the 2 schools in the Borough during the year. They are both still considerably below modern standards as regards sanitary circumstances.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :-
 - (1). (a). Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). . . 186.
 - (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose . . . 220.
 - (2). (a). Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. . . 65.
 - (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose. . . 110.
 - (3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. . . 25.
 - (4). Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. . . 70.
2. Remedy of defects during the Year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. . . 30.
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-
 - (a). Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. . . 10.
 - (2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :- . . 10.
 - (a). By Owners. . . 10.
 - (b). By Local Authority in default of owners. . . nil.
 - (b). Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-
 - (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. . . 30.
 - (2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :- . . 30.
 - (a). By Owners. . . 30.
 - (b). By Local Authority in default of Owners. . . nil.

(c). Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 1.

(2). Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. nil.

(d). Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. nil.

(2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit. nil.

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding :-

(a). (1). Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year. 22.

(2). Number of families dwelling therein. 22.

(3). Number of persons dwelling therein. 100.

(b). Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 10.

(c). (1). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 12.

(2). Number of persons concerned in such cases. 72.

(d). Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. nil.

During the year the 44 new houses built by the Council were completed and are all occupied. They have mostly been used to relieve cases of overcrowding and have proved a great asset. This Council is, however fully alive to the fact that much remains yet to be done and is already contemplating a new housing scheme not only to accomodate those displaced by slum-clearance and overcrowding abatement, but to house people from outside the Borough who are anxious to settle here to be nearer their work or for other reasons.

In November the Ministry held an inquiry into the Council's No.1 Clearance Scheme involving 11 houses at Hill Head and College Row. The findings of that inquiry have not been communicated to us, so that our remaining Clearance Schemes are held up for the present.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Judged by the prevalence or absence of infectious disease 1937 was a healthy year.

The notifications consisted of 3 pneumonias, 2 diphtherias and 1 encephalitis lethargica.

Of non-notifiable disease there was a wide-spread epidemic of Influenza soon after Christmas, but it was not of a severe type. The 2 diphtheria cases came in the last week of the year and spoiled an otherwise noteworthy record. They proved to be the forerunners of an outbreak in one of the two schools in the Borough and the earlier cases being of a severe type resulting in 2 deaths, a good deal of anxiety was occasioned. Swabs were taken from the throats of all the scholars in the class-room where the outbreak started and 2 carriers were isolated. This, together with careful inspection of all suspects, cleansing and fumigation of the school, and isolation of contacts minimised the number of cases very quickly.

A few of the milder cases were nursed at home, where facilities were favourable; the remainder were sent to Falmouth Isolation Hospital, under the temporary arrangement come to by this Council and the Falmouth Authority, and, when the latter Authority could take no more, the Truro City Authority took 2 or 3 cases by arrangement with the County M.O.H.

As to measures that might be taken to minimise the chances of such a thing happening again, I would suggest that more attention should be paid to unhealthy tonsils and adenoids and the question of active immunisation of all children on entering school should be carefully considered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were during the year 5 fresh cases notified.
of these 4 were pulmonary, 3 males and 1 female.

The other case was non-pulmonary and a male.

There were 2 deaths both pulmonary, 1 male aged 52
and one female aged 28.

Notification of tuberculosis has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLAMEY.

May 1938.

